

27, 1957, Mr. D. Churchill observed Bridled Terns sitting on single eggs laid in joint cracks in the granite-gneiss at Seal Island. Mr. G. Binsted visited the Green Islets on November 28, 1956, when hundreds of Bridled Terns were nesting on ledges and crevices in the aeolianite.

Apparently the White-breasted Robin (*Eopsaltria georgiana*) has not been previously recorded from the Porongorups. The species was quite plentiful there in karri forests on July 8, 1958.

The White-fronted Honeyeater (*Gliciphila albifrons*) was observed on April 27, 1958, 10 miles north-east of Gingin in sandplain vegetation dominated by *Banksia ilicifolia*, *B. attenuata*, *B. menziesii*, *Eucalyptus todtiana*, and *Jacksonia floribunda*.

—G. M. STORR, Nedlands.

**Salt-encrustation Hazard to Ducks.**—On January 29, 1959, I witnessed a peculiar incident concerning a big flock of Grey Teal (*Anas gibberifrons*) on a very saline lake near my house. I believe if the birds had been left on the lake they would have perished. The salt lake covers an area of about 25 acres and it is a sanctuary for ducks when a shoot is on at the Channels or Lake Mears. Through summer evaporation the surface area had been reduced to about 15 acres, the water overlying a bed of pure salt about six inches thick.

Following an intensive duck shoot on Lake Mears and the Channels about 1,500-1,800 Grey Teal landed on the lake by 7 a.m. They were still there at sundown so I went over for a closer inspection. The flock remained in the water and the birds merely looked at me. I ran into the lake and a few of the birds took to the air, just managing to fly at about four feet and about 15 miles per hour. I ran and caught one of the flying birds and found that every feather on its breast had a bead of salt on it as big as a B.B. shot. All the beads together must have weighed 4 oz.

The birds landed on the salt again and it looked as though I had a major tragedy on my hands. So I organised the children on their bicycles and with myself in the utility flushed the flocks with gunshots and "herded" the slow-flying mob to a big dam. About 40 of the ducks came down in the paddock before they made the dam, but the main flock landed on it. The children gathered up 37 of the ducks that could not reach the dam and threw them into a small fresh-water pool. The salt beads dissolved in about 20 minutes and the birds took off quite well. I gave the ducks on the dam about half an hour and when I walked over the bank (it was nearly dusk) the mob took off with a normal roar of wings and headed for Lake Mears. They had made a mess of the dam preening themselves.

—HENRY G. HALL, Dangingin.

[A water sample from the lake was sent to the Government Chemical Laboratories, Perth (received on February 20, 1959). Mr. R. C. Gorman (Deputy Government Agricultural Chemist) reported the analyses as follows: Total soluble salts (by evaporation), 41.0%; sodium chloride (calculated from chloride), 30.0%; reaction, faintly acid. Mr. Hall stated that a shower of rain had fallen between the time he witnessed the incident and collected the water sample.—Ed.]